

Benchmarking Grade 5 reading performance: Are standards being met?

Table CRT5.1

Grade 5 student proficiency in reading

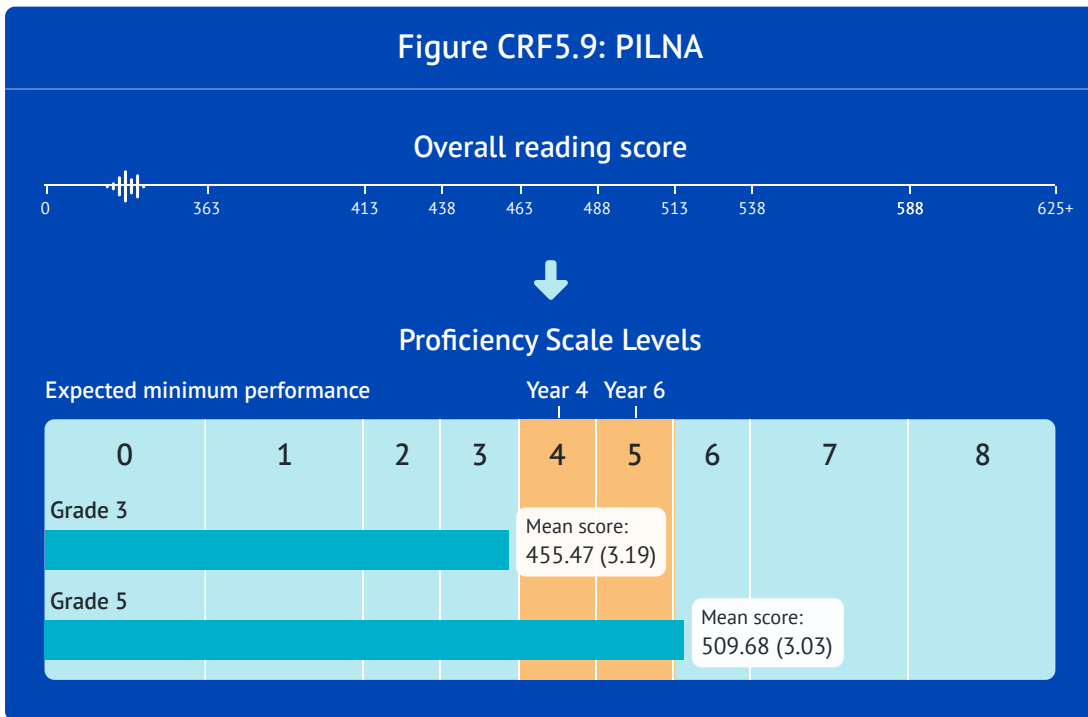
Level	Distribution	
		8.92% (1.18)
		22.99% (1.80)
		16.50% (1.16)
		17.29% (1.02)
		13.80% (1.26)
		9.99% (0.88)
		5.43% (0.62)
		4.31% (6.70)
		0.77% (0.24)

Distribution of Grade 5 students by proficiency levels, PNG, PILNA 2021.

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Table CRT5.1 shows the Papua New Guinea distribution of grade five reading scores against the PILNA reading proficiency scale. This scale converts a student's reading performance into a level ranking from zero to eight. The expected minimum reading performance for grade five students is proficiency level five, see below. Pacific stakeholders expect these students to reach or exceed this proficiency level.

The average performance of grade five students in Papua New Guinea in reading was 509.68 (SD = 58.16). This corresponds to proficiency level five on the PILNA reading proficiency scale (level five is assigned to scores 487.5–512.5). On average, grade five students in Papua New Guinea are meeting the minimum expected standard in reading.



The average reading score does not tell us the whole story. The proportion of students who are meeting the minimum expected standard is also important. This is shown in Table CRT5.1. Approximately 66% of grade five students in Papua New Guinea were performing at or above the minimum expected level in reading (levels 5–8) but about 34% students did not meet this level (levels 0–4). This shows that approximately two thirds of the grade five students assessed in 2021 are meeting the minimum expected standard and approximately one third are not. Also shown in Table CRT5.1, is the significant proportion of grade five students who scored at level seven (23%), the second highest level on the reading scale.

Table CRT5.2

Grade 5 student numeracy proficiency relative to the region

Level	REGION	PNG
	10.98% (0.73)	undefined% (undefined)
	16.92% (0.55)	undefined% (undefined)
	12.51% (0.53)	undefined% (undefined)
	12.72% (0.37)	undefined% (undefined)
	12.03% (0.30)	undefined% (undefined)
	10.74% (0.43)	undefined% (undefined)
	8.19% (0.29)	undefined% (undefined)
	10.76% (0.46)	undefined% (undefined)
	5.15% (0.39)	undefined% (undefined)

Distribution of Grade 5 students' performance in numeracy in PNG against the region, PILNA 2021.

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Across the region, approximately 53% of grade five students performed at or above the expected proficiency level in reading, compared to approximately 66% in Papua New Guinea. This means that a larger proportion of grade five students (13% more) were performing at or above the expected level in reading than those in the region.

Table CRT5.3

Grade 5 Reading distribution by proficiency scores and gender

Level	GIRLS	BOYS
	10.12% (1.44)	7.97% (1.22)
	24.76% (1.83)	21.28% (2.33)
	16.75% (1.16)	16.24% (1.54)
	17.84% (1.56)	16.51% (1.21)
	13.25% (1.42)	14.49% (1.43)
	8.84% (1.01)	11.04% (1.24)
	4.47% (0.74)	6.33% (0.92)
	3.33% (0.75)	5.22% (1.00)
	0.64% (0.31)	0.91% (0.32)

Distribution of Grade 5 students' proficiency in reading by gender, PNG, PILNA 2021

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

When looking at the distribution of grade three reading proficiency scores in 2021 by gender (Table CRT5.3), we can see differences in the scores of girls and boys in Papua New Guinea. Approximately 47% of grade three girls performed at or above the expected minimum proficiency level, but only about 43% of grade three boys did so.